

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the outstanding Office Action. Claims 12, 14-19, 21-29 and 31-33 are presented herewith for consideration. Claims 1-11, 13, 20 and 30 are cancelled. Claims 12, 15-19 and 21-32 are amended.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by “LEC LTD introduces Internet promotional concept called E-Stakes” (*LEC*).

Claims 1-16, 18-26 and 28-33 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 006251017B1 (*Leason et al.*).

Claims 17 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Leason et al.*

I. Rejection of Claims 1-24 Under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-11 have been cancelled to expedite prosecution; therefore the Office Action’s rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-9 under 35 USC § 102(b) is considered moot.

As suggested by the Examiner, claims 12 and 15-19 have been amended.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-9 Under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by *LEC*. Claims 1-11 have been cancelled to expedite prosecution; therefore the Office Action’s rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-9 under 35 USC § 102(b) is considered moot.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-16, 18-26 and 28-33 Under 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1-16, 18-26 and 28-33 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. *Leason et al.*

Claims 1-11, 13 and 20 have been cancelled; therefore the Office Action's rejection of claims 1-13 and 20 under 35 USC § 102(e) is considered moot.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of previously pending claim 13 and 20. Claim 12 calls for among other elements: "awarding a promotional value that includes an electronic coupon in response to the alphanumeric sequence; awarding a prize in response to the alphanumeric sequence..."

Leason et al. does not disclose **both** "awarding a promotional value that includes an electronic coupon in response to the alphanumeric sequence" and also "awarding a prize in response to the [same] alphanumeric sequence..."

Claims 14-19 and 21-24 depend from claim 12 and therefore are patentable for at least the reasons stated above in regard to claim 12.

Claim 25 has similar limitations to claim 12 and therefore is patentable for similar reasons.

Further, claim 25 specifies specific "software components" that have not been identified with particularity in *Leason et al.* by the Office Action.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-16, 18-26 and 28-33 under 35 USC § 102(e) be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claims 17 and 27 Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 17 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Leason et al.*

Claim 17 and 27 depend from claims 12 and 25 and therefore are patentable for at least the reasons stated above in regard to claims 12 and 25.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 17 and 27 under 35 USC § 103(a) be withdrawn.

V. Conclusion

Based on the above amendments and these remarks, reconsideration of claims 12, 14-19, 21-29 and 31-33 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions with regard to the instant response, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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